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ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Canada, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Singapore, South Africa, Swaziland, Thailand, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe: revised draft resolution

The role of the United Nations Development Fund for Women in eliminating violence against women

The General Assembly,

Welcoming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 1/ which called for the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls, and the promotion and protection of all human rights of women and girls, stressing that acts or threats of violence, whether occurring within the home or in the community or perpetrated or condoned by the State, instilled fear and insecurity in women's lives and were obstacles to the achievement of equality, development and peace,

Recalling that the Platform for Action called for action to eradicate violence against the girl child, recognizing that girls were more vulnerable to all kinds of violence,

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1/ A/CONF.177/20, chap. I.

Recalling also that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action 2/ affirmed that gender-based violence and all forms of sexual harassment and exploitation, including those resulting from cultural prejudice and international trafficking, were incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person and must be eliminated,

Recalling further its resolution 48/104 of 20 December 1993, proclaiming the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, which recognized that violence against women violated and impaired or nullified the enjoyment by women of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recognizing the importance of the effective implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

Emphasizing the need for full implementation by Governments and community organizations, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, and the public and private sectors, as appropriate, of the measures set out in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,

Urging that Governments allocate adequate resources within their budgets and mobilize community resources for activities related to the elimination of violence against women, including resources for the implementation of plans of action at all appropriate levels, as called for in paragraph 124 (p) of the Platform for Action,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/27 of 24 July 1995, in which the Council approved resolution 8 of the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders concerning the elimination of violence against women and urged the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to continue to consider the elimination of violence against women within its priority themes and within the training and technical assistance efforts of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme,

Recognizing the importance of cooperation with the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women,

Reaffirming the importance of developing a holistic and multidisciplinary approach to the task of promoting families, communities and States that are free from violence against women and affirming the need for coordinated and strengthened international support for this approach,

Recalling its resolution 48/107 of 20 December 1993, in which it reaffirmed the catalytic role that the United Nations Development Fund for Women has played in facilitating the efforts of Governments and non-governmental organizations at the national and community levels to support innovative activities that directly benefit and empower women, and in increasing opportunities and options for women in developing countries to participate more effectively in the development of their countries, in line with national priorities,

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2/ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

1. Reiterates its appreciation for the advocacy initiatives of the United Nations Development Fund for Women, including its contribution to and participation in the follow-up of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, in particular with respect to efforts to combat violence against women, commends the Fund for its support of catalytic and innovative projects that strengthen the national capacity to improve the situation of women and takes note, with appreciation, of the Platform for Action which affirmed that the Fund had the mandate to increase options and opportunities for women's economic and social development in developing countries by providing technical and financial assistance to incorporate the women's dimension into development at all levels and that it should review and strengthen, as appropriate, its work programme in the light of the Platform for Action, focusing on women's political and economic empowerment;

2. Requests the Fund, as one of the operational bodies of the United Nations, to take into account the need to strengthen its activities to eliminate violence against women as part of system-wide efforts of the United Nations towards this goal, in accordance with the measures set out in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, and focusing on activities, particularly at the national and community levels, and calls on Member States to promote cooperation with the Fund to these ends;

3. Also requests the Fund, in undertaking any relevant activities, to cooperate closely with the relevant organs and bodies of the United Nations, in particular the Division for the Advancement of Women, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, the Centre for Human Rights, the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch, and the United Nations Children's Fund, in order to ensure that its activities form part of the system-wide efforts of the United Nations to eliminate violence against women;

4. Further requests the Fund to include in its regular reports information regarding its activities to eliminate violence against women and girls and provide such information to the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Human Rights;

5. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, in consultation with the Secretary-General, as well as with the relevant organs and bodies of the United Nations, in particular the Division for the Advancement of Women, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, the Centre for Human Rights and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch, to consider the possibility of establishing a trust fund, within the existing mandate, structure and management of the United Nations Development Fund for Women, in support of national, regional and international actions, including those taken by Governments and non-governmental organizations, to eliminate violence against women;

6. Requests the Fund to include in its regular reports information on the implementation of the present resolution and also to provide such information to the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Human Rights.